



March 2003

Volume XXXIII, No. 2

FREE

## Dogpatch Moves Closer to Historic District Status

At its February 6 meeting, the S.F. Planning Commission unanimously approved the historic district designation for Dogpatch!

Dogpatch neighbors have been working on this for over three years. The process of designating the Dogpatch Historic District represents a successful partnership between government and those groups and individuals dedicated to the cause of preserving San Francisco's historic past.

The Planning Department is in the process of forwarding the Planning Commission and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board's findings and motions to the Board of Supervisors so that the district ordinance can be calendared for hearing, first by committee, then by the full board. Dogpatch and the Planning Department hope to have the full Board of Supervisors hear this matter before the end of March 2003.

Owning a property within an historic district is both a privilege and a responsibility. Property owners can benefit from general increased property values, local and federal tax incentives for rehabilitation, and protection from the threat of destructive development. In return, owners are responsible for helping to maintain the distinctive characteristics that make an historic building or district unique. Many communities have found that property values within historic districts typically increase from one-and-a-half to three times faster than comparable areas outside the district.

Hopefully, Dogpatch will now attain a level of recognition not usually conferred on a traditionally working-class neighborhood. Other historic districts in San Francisco include the Jackson Square, Alamo Square, South End, Cottage Row, Webster Street, Liberty Hill and Telegraph Hill Historic districts. The city has not designated an historic district in 10 years; Dogpatch is the newest.

Please call/fax any and all members of the Board of Supervisors to express your support. Clerk's Office: 554-5184 / Fax: 554-5163.

— Susan Eslick, President, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

## Child's Death Inspires Efforts for Pedestrian Safety Improvements

By John Borg

The tragic loss of a vibrant 4-year-old girl who was struck and killed by a MUNI truck at the corner of 24th Street and Potrero Avenue has resulted in a profound outpouring of grief — and inspired efforts to improve pedestrian safety at dangerous intersections throughout the city.

Elizabeth Dominguez was killed Feb. 11 when a MUNI maintenance truck driver ran a red light, collided with another vehicle, and careened onto a crowded sidewalk and into the side of Papa Potrero's Pizza restaurant. The accident occurred just blocks from Buena Vista Alternative School, where the young girl had just finished a pre-kindergarten class.

Elizabeth and her mother, Sylvia Lopez, were on their way to Walgreen's to buy crayons when the accident took place. Lopez was bruised in the accident, but managed to protect her 2-month old son, Michael, whom she had been carrying in her arms. Three other people were injured, including Monica Valencia, a 4-year-old classmate of Elizabeth's, Monica's mother, Candelaria Valencia, and a 56-year-old Leroy Briggs, all of San Francisco.

According to police, the MUNI truck was being driven by Sebastian Garcia, a 58-year-old maintenance worker, who was on duty at the time. Garcia told police at the scene that he had a green light, but a subsequent investigation revealed that he had in fact run the light. Police say that neither alcohol or drugs appeared to be a factor, and charges had not been filed in the case at press time.

Parents, neighbors, and school officials say Potrero Avenue, which feeds traffic onto Highway 101, has long been a notorious thoroughfare for speeders and red light runners.

"When our children leave school it shouldn't be a risk to walk home, but it's almost like a freeway at this intersection," said Mark Alvarado, principal at Buena Vista Alternative School (located at 2646 25th St.).

"There are four community schools within an eight-block radius, and the neighborhood is also frequented by many sick, elderly, and disabled people visiting nearby San Francisco General Hospital."



Elizabeth Dominguez

David Erickson photo

The Buena Vista School Parent-Teacher Assn., working closely with Supervisor Tom Ammiano, responded quickly to the tragedy by demanding immediate improvements at the intersection. Ammiano, himself a former school board member and teacher at Buena Vista School, convened a special hearing on Feb. 26 to address the issue of traffic safety. The meeting included fellow supervisors, as well as representatives from the San Francisco Board of Education, the Dept. of Parking and Traffic, the Dept. of Public Health, and the Police Dept. He is also pushing to renew a 1989 measure that funds pedestrian safety improvements in the city.

"The loss of Elizabeth is such a heart-breaker. The only thing we can do to not feel completely helpless is put remedies into place that assure this will never happen again," Ammiano told The View. "We are working on short-term and long-term solutions to make that intersection more safe. We need to exam-

ine other problem spots, too, especially near schools."

City workers have already re-marked the intersection as a school safe route, with a more visible ladder style crosswalk. Additional long-term improvements are being sought by the parents group, including pedestrian count down signals, better signage, crossing guards, and increased police traffic enforcement.

The accident has spurred calls for pedestrian safety across the city. The Potrero Hill Parents Assn. has contacted Ammiano and District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell to support a request to the Dept. of Parking and Traffic to install two additional stop signs at the corner of 20th and Arkansas, near Daniel Webster School. A previous request for this change was denied by DPT in November 2002.

A packed memorial mass for Elizabeth took place Feb. 16 at St. Peter's Church, followed by a procession to her school and a reception. Buena Vista Alternative School students have since written city officials and marched to City Hall — many wearing T-shirts bearing Elizabeth's smiling face — to demand pedestrian safety improvements.

"Elizabeth was such a sweet and happy girl. It's been a very difficult time for students and staff here," said principal Alvarado. "But we've all done the best we can. The parents, staff, and kids have been just wonderful. We're trying to channel our grief in a positive way."

John Borg, a graphic designer, lives and works in Dogpatch.

A fund has been established for Elizabeth's family.

Contributions can be sent to the Elizabeth Dominguez Memorial Fund, c/o Merrill Lynch, attn. Robert Rettig, 600 California St., 8th floor, San Francisco, CA 94108

## Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Cesar Chavez on March 30

Celebrating the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez as a Labor and civil rights leader, there will be a special Chavez Holiday Parade and Festival on Sunday, March 30. The parade will assemble at 11 a.m. on Second Street, and at noon will proceed up Market Street to the Civic Center for a program that will run from 1 to 5 p.m.

Cesar Chavez counted on the Bay Area as a strong center of support for the farm worker movement. Thousands of local supporters showed their solidarity during the years of the grape and lettuce boycotts, the fasts, and the long marches. Chavez's principles of using non-violent social action were crucial in ob-

taining, for the first time, better wages, health benefits, protections from pesticides, and even a pension plan for thousands of farm workers.

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, is an honored guest at this 3rd Annual event, which is the main event in Northern California to honor Cesar Chavez.

Everyone is invited to participate in the Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Parade and Festival. There will be music, cultural performances, exhibits, games and food. The Festival is accessible from the Civic Center station. Admission is free. For more information call the Chavez Holiday Committee at 440-8502.

## Inside View:

Record High Home Sales

see Pg. 5

Hill Bike Routes

see Pg. 6

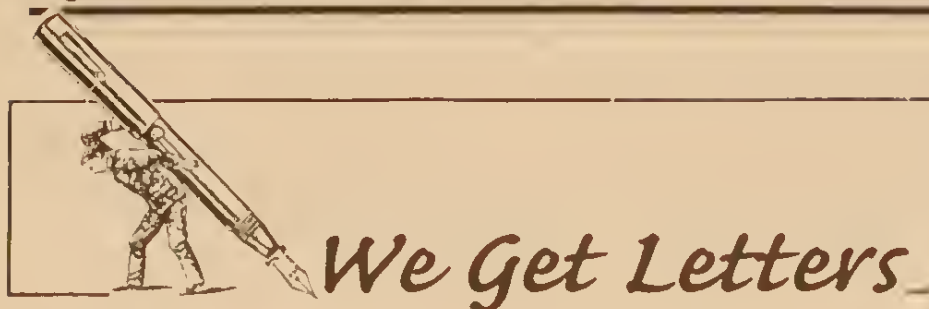
Vision Loss Information

see Pg. 14

Burton Introduces Health Coverage Plan

see Pg. 3





## Live Oak Responds

Dear Editor

As the new Director of Live Oak School, I read Dave Matsuda's article in the February edition of "The Potrero View" with particular interest. While the school has a rich 30-year history, Live Oak is a newcomer to Potrero Hill, moving just a year ago from our small leased site in the Castro. Live Oak mounted a successful capital campaign, secured bond financing as well as significant foundation support to enable us to purchase and renovate our permanent site. As a co-educational, independent elementary school, students come to Live Oak from all over San Francisco. But we are delighted to report an increasing number of applications from Potrero Hill families.

A school with "progressive" roots, Live Oak is deeply committed to nurturing both good learners and good people. The elementary school years are important ones for instilling lifelong values and attitudes about learning and about one's place in the world. We want our students to acquire strong basic skills in reading, writing, math and the sciences. We also place an emphasis on the arts, physical education, and athletics. Though solid skills are critical, we also want children to enjoy the learning process, to learn how to solve problems, and to think critically. We want students to communicate well, both orally and in writing. We want them to know the difference between right and wrong, to have the tools to resolve differences, and to stand up for what they believe. Education is a process in which we want students to play a starring role every day.

As an independent school, we establish our curriculum, priorities, hiring practices and goals in keeping with our mission. We are accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools and are governed by a Board of Trustees. The school is entirely funded by tuition, charitable contributions, and foundation grants.

Live Oak enrolls approximately 250 students in Kindergarten through Grade Eight. We accept new classes at the Kindergarten and Sixth Grade levels, and have some openings at other grade levels for next fall as well. Tuition at Live Oak will be \$12,550 for students in grades K-5 and \$13,250 for students in grades 6-8. Our tuition is among the least expensive of independent school tuitions in San Francisco. Like all schools, we continue to struggle with issues of affordability and access balanced with the need to retain an outstanding faculty. We are proud of our ambitious tuition assistance program, which offers financial support to more than 25 percent of our students.

Our hope is that Live Oak's presence on Potrero Hill will enhance the neighborhood. Community service is important and we want our students to develop the understanding and the motivation to make the world a better place. There is no better place to begin than close to home. If you have ideas about how Live Oak students might participate in the Potrero Hill community, or if you'd like a tour of the school, I encourage you to call us at 861-8840.

Holly Horton  
Director, Live Oak School

## Behaving in Public

Dear Editor:

I read Dave Matsuda's article on the Live Oak School with much interest because I too had been excited by Live Oak becoming part of the neighborhood community. Unfortunately, instead, I have been upset with the schools' over-running of Jackson Playground since they opened.

I started a petition then which many neighborhood parents signed at the time. For a short while the situation got better but perhaps that was because it was summer time? However, once again Live Oak is using the public playground with little regard for the other children. I have personally been witness to the Live Oak children running into the playground, forgetting to close the gates, having very little supervision, and most importantly, not being aware of other children already using the public facilities.

I was shocked and horrified to learn the tuition may go up to \$20,000 [see above letter from Live Oak's Director — ed] next year and the school still doesn't have their own private playground to use instead of running rampant through the public, neighborhood playground. Perhaps, if they do raise their tuition to this obscene amount, they can at least instigate some classes that will teach the children how to behave in public spaces.

Laura Milvy  
Mississippi Street

## Box Tops for Education

Editor:

With the budget cuts from Gov. Gray Davis, and the School District putting a freeze on the money for all the schools, Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts, 655 De Haro St., will be one of the schools affected by the cuts. I feel very sad and angry about the whole thing!

## Guest Editorial

# Festivals Are Not Frivolous

By Robert Kesten

With terrorism, war and other serious issues facing us it is hard to believe that independent film festivals are at all important, but they are.

As I write it is late February 2003 and most of us believe that war with Iraq is imminent. The Bush Administration has made its decision and plans to stick to it no matter what transpires. Michael K. Powell (Colin's son) chairman of the Federal Communications Commission continues his deregulation efforts, allowing the giant communications companies to control more entertainment, more news and information services and more print, making diversity of opinions an endangered species.

We are told that in order to protect our nation we must make compromises; the government needs access to our e-mail, telephone conversations, and other forms of communication. The First Amendment, as well as other amendments, is being watered down and the news media, the Fourth Estate, meant to protect our freedoms, is busy lobbying the government on its own behalf — what is left but the independent filmmaker? These are the people, who take their own funds, have a strong point of view, and express what is going on in their own words and pictures.

This is what America is about, this is why we fought wars in the past, to protect these inalienable rights like freedom of speech. This is what makes us the nation where everyone wants to live. Yet, at a time when we must be vigilant and keep our eyes open, we are not supporting the very institutions that make us special, we are not protecting the very things that our forefathers and mothers risked their lives for. What is the sense of going to war to protect our nation if the USA becomes something other than the USA?

It is our job as citizens to fight for our rights, just as we fight to protect our borders. It is our mandate to insist that our government respect these rights that were laid down in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and in subsequent laws and it is essential that we challenge those who want to limit and/or restrict these freedoms.

No one argues that dangerous times require compromise, but can we afford to compromise on the things that make us the United States of America? Can we give over to Mr. Bush or Mr. Powell the very rights that define who we are as a people?

If ever there was a time to challenge terrorists, this is that time. But the best way for us to take on this challenge is to demonstrate that no matter what they throw at us, we will not bend to their demands, we will not give up being the land of the free and the home of the brave. For if we do, then no matter how many battles we win, they have won the war. No, film festivals are not frivolous, fighting to protect our voice and the voices of others is what it means to be an American. God bless America.

*Robert Kesten is the president and founder of The Director's View Film Festival, The Community Film Project, Women Filmmakers Series, The Connecticut Film Society and other arts and cultural projects and programs in the New York Metropolitan Region*

Also, there may not be enough tools or materials to further the education of our children. The parents, the Family Faculty Partners Club, and the fundraising committee of the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School are asking community members to help our school earn cash through a fundraising program from General Mills called Box Tops for Education. This successful program has already contributed nearly \$70 million to America's schools since the launch of the program in 1996.

This is a great fundraising idea, because everyone can help earn cash for our school (year-round) through easy everyday activities like buying groceries, shopping online, and making purchases with a credit card. With this tool we can make this a good source of income for the school. Our school can earn up to \$60,000 each school year, and when everyone participates even a little bit, it adds up fast! For info see [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

Thank you for supporting our school and making a difference for the children in our community.

Debbie Santiago  
Parent of an EDM Middle School student  
821-9420 work/pager 708-0081

have all been for either new construction, or re-models of existing homes, to unusually large proportions. Most have been dwellings that would be well over 4200 sq. ft. and would almost completely cover existing lot use.

The major concern is the damage to our neighborhood that these projects would have. These designs are significantly in conflict with the character design, and face of our neighborhood. They will set a precedent for maximizing the amount of structure on every lot, and minimizing open air and light space.

We are deeply concerned about a movement to homes in a neighborhood that are simply designed to maximize square footage and lot consumption without regard to the character and integrity of the neighborhood.

Potrero Hill residents have always been pro-active in responding to those forces that adversely impact our community and quality of life. We need to be vigilant and join forces now before this becomes larger than anything we can collectively impact. If we do not speak up and oppose these new, oversized buildings now, it will become increasingly more difficult to do once precedents have been set.

One strategy is to file a Discretionary Review when you are notified that new remodeling/building is being proposed, or to support others who file a DR on behalf of immediate neighbors. Another is to speak to our supervisor, Sophie Maxwell, or to the Potrero Hill Boosters and Homeowners Assn.

Ruth and Lew Goldhammer  
Kansas Street

## Permits Running Wild

Editor and Neighbors:

We would very much appreciate your support to counter the plethora of new requests for building permits on Potrero Hill. These

*If you wish to remain anonymous, please say so, but all letters must include your name and address when received*

*The Potrero View, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107 e-mail [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net)*



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY





## GETTING INVOLVED

**ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector)** meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the San Francisco Police Department to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments after the meeting. Next two meetings: March 6 and April 3, 2003.

**Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board** meets the first Monday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Health Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street. All meetings are open to the public. Topics under discussion include the SF Health Department budget cuts including the elimination of the adult dental program. Public opinion on these cuts will be welcome. Next two meetings: March 3 and April 7, 2003.

**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m., at 950 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: March 11, 2003.

**PHAB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz). Next meeting: March 11, 2003.

**PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association)** will meet on Friday, March 7 at Noon, outside, at the Potrero Hill Rec Center, Madera & Arkansas Sts.

**Starr King Park Board of Directors** meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month, 7 p.m., in the upstairs meeting room of the Potrero Hill Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: March 18, 2003. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The next work day is March 15, 2003. The park is located along Carolina Street, south of 23rd Street (1200 block). The Board's secretary can be reached at 647-2745. Address mail for the Board of Directors to Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, San Francisco, CA 94188-0293. Contact us for other volunteer opportunities.

**Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. The room is wheelchair accessible. For more information visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or call John deCastro, 865-0669, or e-mail him at [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: March 25, 2003.

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: February 23, 2003.

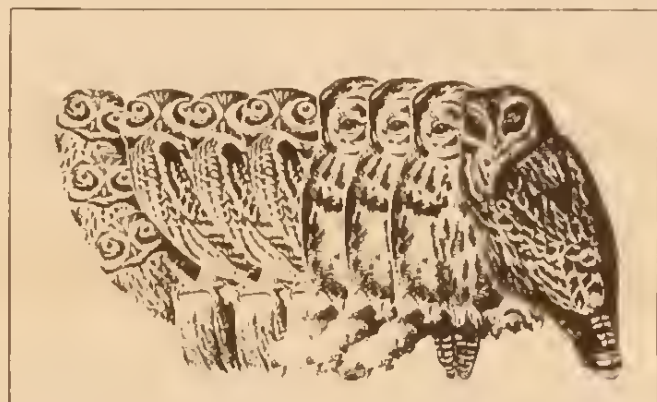
**PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors)** meets in executive session only. Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by the board may phone Elizabeth at 826-6359.

— Wini Mann



The Anti-War March in San Francisco last February 16 included thousands of people and signs, and none was more striking than the group known as Mourning Mothers, who gathered together and simply held white-shrouded figures - presumably infants - in silent protest. The next Anti-War march will be held on March 15, beginning at the foot of Market Street in San Francisco, meeting at 11 a.m.

Ruth Passen photo



## Burton Introduces Bill to Expand Health Insurance Coverage and Reduce Costs

Senate President Pro Tem John Burton announced in February the introduction of legislation that would expand health insurance coverage to millions of uninsured Californians while reducing health insurance costs for taxpayers and employers who already offer health coverage for their employees.

"This bill helps the many uninsured who work, helps employers because it puts them in a big purchasing pool, which lowers costs, and helps taxpayers who are the ones who ultimately pick up the tab when people without insurance are forced to seek expensive emergency care," Burton said.

Burton's bill would require employers either to provide health insurance to their employees and their dependents or to pay a fee that would be used by the state to provide health insurance through a state health insurance pool. It would be up to the employer to choose whether to provide coverage or pay the fee.

By requiring employers to provide coverage, Burton hopes to reduce the number of uninsured Californians by nearly five million. The number of Californians who are without health insurance at some time during the year is approximately 6.3 million.

In addition, people who are continuously covered by health insurance have better health outcomes than those who lack coverage or have intermittent coverage. Chronic illnesses such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease and cancer are diagnosed and treated earlier and managed more effectively. Acute conditions such as injuries or infections are treated

sooner and result in less time lost from work.

Reducing the cost of providing health coverage will help the health care cost crisis in California. Since 2000, CALPERS has seen an increase of over 50 percent for the cost of providing health coverage and they anticipate another increase of 25-30 percent for next year. The increase in the cost of providing coverage for private employers has risen even more, with small employers seeing the most dramatic increase in costs.

Small employers would get the purchasing power of being part of a large pool. Employers who provide coverage today would no longer pay for the spouse whose job doesn't provide coverage or the worker who is sicker than they should be because they didn't get care when they needed it.

Taxpayers eventually end up paying to provide health care to most people who need it — through unreimbursed emergency room care, public assistance, or other means. Again, since people with health insurance are healthier than those without it, it is cheaper to provide them with health care. One reason is that they have access to preventative care, which means they are less likely to get sick or to develop health conditions requiring more serious and costly treatment.

The bill provides a mechanism for drawing down untapped federal funding to help subsidize the cost of providing coverage to low-income Medi-Cal eligible employees and dependent children who are eligible for Healthy Families.

## All Neighbors Are Invited To Attend Special Meeting On the Power Plant

THURSDAY, MARCH 20  
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

POTRERO HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE  
953 DE HARO STREET

The Potrero Power Plant Citizens Advisory Task Force urges you to attend a special power plant meeting on Potrero Hill. Learn about the city's new Energy Resource Plan and possible alternatives to Mirant's proposal to expand the Potrero plant to a huge 900 megawatt facility.

Issues to be discussed:

- Status of proposed Potrero Power Plant expansion
- New alternatives to Mirant's expansion plans
- Review of San Francisco's Energy Resource Plan

This is a critical time in the process.  
Get all the updates and give us your feedback.

Task Force Members:

Robert Boileau  
John Borg  
Joe Boss

Philip DeAndrade  
Babette Drefke  
Richard Millet

Steven Moss  
Karen Pierce  
Claude Wilson



**LIBRARY NEWS**  
**POTRERO BRANCH**  
**1616 20th St. / 355-2822**

**Closed Sunday and Monday**  
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



# TEN YEARS AGO

*In The View*

**NEW POTRERO CAPTAIN ADDS PATROL CAR ON HILL**  
Captain Tim Hettrich, the new man in charge at Potrero Police Station, is a firm believer in police-citizen contact, and is in favor of more foot patrols and mountain bike officers. He has placed two mountain bike patrols on Third Street, and plans one on San Bruno Avenue and Visitacion Valley. "The merchants love them — they're more visible and people notice them. He has also freed up funds for an extra patrol car for Potrero Hill, which is too hilly for the mountain bikes. He has assigned one officer to work strictly on code abatements, going after crack houses, illegal auto repair places, and dilapidated buildings. He is looking forward to the move of the station to new headquarters at Third and Williams streets in the Bayview District

**LIBRARY FUND CUT THREATENS ADULT SERVICES**  
If Mayor Frank Jordan's demand that the Library Commission cut 1.5 million from its budget becomes a reality, Potrero Branch and 19 other smaller neighborhood branch libraries would be open only two days a week, and only to provide children's services. This proposal could result in the layoff of dozens of librarians. Open hours for children would be cut in half as well. The proposal also calls for a halt in buying adult books for the 20 library branches.

**HOSPITAL WORKER UNIONS PROTEST LACK OF SECURITY**  
SEIU Locals 250,535 and 790 have filed a grievance, complaining about the decrease in the extent of security around S.F. General Hospital. Hospital security officers are no longer allowed to cross any of the surrounding streets, and the SFPD has not increased patrols. An RN was beaten with a baseball bat and a pharmacist was beaten unconscious and found on the street. The unions are demanding increased police services, and shuttle services from BART.

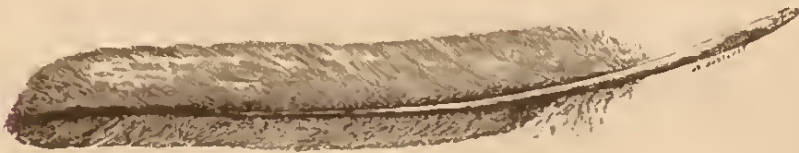
**PUBLIC HOUSING GRAFFITI ATTACKED IN "PAINT OUT"**  
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Girls Club members and others gathered at Potrero Annex Public Housing to paint out graffiti. The Housing Authority and some neighborhood businesses provided paint, rollers, brushes, gloves and refreshments.

**PLANS FOR A PARENTS' CLUB AT JACKSON PARK**  
A group of neighbors attended a meeting in February at Jackson Park, located at Mariposa and Arkansas Streets, to establish a parents' club. Parents were treated to a tour of the building, which was built in 1907, but was completely renovated, to include a half-size basketball court, a stage, ping-pong, an arts and crafts room, and a fully equipped kitchen.

**NABE TO BE REHABBED BY "CHRISTMAS IN APRIL"**  
Christmas in April helps low-income, elderly or disabled people through volunteer repair and renovation of owner-occupied and not-for-profit facilities that benefit underserved populations. The annual program brings volunteers and beneficiaries together in the tradition of an old-fashioned barn-raising. All hands-on work takes place in April, culminating in an all-out, one-day effort by both skilled and unskilled volunteers to complete all repairs and renovations free of charge to the beneficiaries.

**AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . .** Concern was expressed about the size of the proposed Mission Bay project . . . Plans for the Wisconsin Street site of the Barratt Homes development had to be changed to be compatible with the neighborhood and meet low-income housing requirements . . . PG&E began the dismantling of the gas storage holders and electrical generating units at the foot of 23rd Street . . . Public housing tenants protested the use of large garbage bins rather than individual cans

— Bernie Gershater



## Books for Breakfast

By Brett Schaeffer

Joshua approaches warily, looking tough in his puffy black ski jacket slightly draped off his shoulders to reveal an equally dark sweatshirt. He stops about a foot in front of me. Cocks his head to the left and looks me in the eye. "Can I read you a book?"

He didn't have to ask twice. Joshua, 10 and a dozen other students, mostly younger, were gathered around a cafeteria table inside San Francisco's Starr King Elementary School reading — or being read to — as part of a growing before-school program known as Books for Breakfast.

Teachers at Starr King Elementary, 1215 Carolina St., have come up with the program as an antidote to the "eat-your-vegetables" mentality permeating their school under the ever-increasing emphasis on test scores and government-mandated standards.

The morning reading sessions offer kids time with an adult and a book, time that is "very loose and fun," says Chris Rosenberg, one the program's coordinators.

The voluntary program is, simply, dessert for the kids — and it happens right after breakfast in the school's cafeteria.

About 20 children participate each day, and the ages and reading levels vary. Sometimes the kids read to the adults, sometimes

the adults read to the kids, and sometimes they read together, Rosenberg says.

Though the Book for Breakfast program has been in place at Starr King for a few years, this school year is the first time Rosenberg and his colleagues have aggressively recruited adult readers outside of the school. It's his effort to try to connect more with the local community.

To that end, Rosenberg has enlisted a few employees from the nearby Starbucks as readers, and has been marketing the program — via signs posted throughout the coffee shop — to its regular customers. So far the recruiting efforts have paid off.

Leslie Nakagima, a Potrero Hill resident who works downtown, spotted the sign one morning a few months ago, called Rosenberg, and is now stopping by the school every Tuesday and Thursday.

Nakagima has been bowled over by their enthusiasm. "The kids are great," she says. "They get so excited when they finish a story."

The basic interaction between the kids and the volunteers is one of the keys of the program, Rosenberg adds. "It's a nice chance for kids to spend time with adults — and it isn't so heavily structured."

Brett Schaeffer is a free-lance designer who lives in Bernal Heights but enjoys our Hill, too.

**GOT ART?**

The 48th annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition will open on April 5, and we want your art! If you live, work, or study on Potrero Hill, you are invited to participate in the show. We will be accepting submissions of artwork from March 15 through March 29. You may submit two pieces if each is 20" x 24" or smaller, one piece if it is larger. (No submissions larger than 54" x 54", please.) All work should be framed and ready to hang. Everyone is invited to attend the opening night wine-and-cheese reception on Saturday, April 5, from 7 to 9 P.M. The exhibition will continue through April 26, 2003. For more information, please call the library at 355-2822.

**SEEING IS BELIEVING**

The Grateful Dead on the Hill? Come by and take a look at our display of stunning 1968 photos of The Dead on the Hill. Many thanks to Peter Linenthal for unearthing these images, procuring copies, and bringing them to us for the entire month of March.

**SPEAKING OF THE PAST**

Do you know what Daniel Webster Elementary School looked like in the 1920s? Recently added to the Potrero Hill Archives Project is a print, courtesy of Digital Pond, showing the former building. Also added to the Archives, and now available for borrowing: a video recording of interviews conducted last fall during Potrero Hill's History Night.

**UPCOMING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

• Warm up your vocal cords! Musician Chris Molla comes to the library on Thursday, March 20, at 10:30 a.m., and will share original and traditional songs. This program is suitable for children of all ages. (Funding is provided by the Friends & Foundation of San Francisco Public Library.)

• Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, March 6, 13, and 27 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

• Evening storytime on Tuesdays, March 4, 18, and 25 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

• Evening films on Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m.: *Chicken Little*, *Frog Goes to Dinner*, and *Tangram*. For ages 3 and older.

• It's no joke — a program on Tuesday, April 1 at 7 p.m. Join us for an evening of stories, songs, and clowning, when Diana Shmiana presents "The Book of Wonders." For children of all ages. (Funding is provided by the Friends & Foundation of San Francisco Public Library.)

For all library programs: groups, please call in advance for reservations.

**COMING ATTRACTIONS:**  
**BOOKS ON ORDER**

• *The Anchor Book of Modern African Stories*, edited by Nadezda Obradovic. Thirty-four voices gathered from an entire continent populate this anthology . . . the art of the story is alive and well in Africa.

• *We Were Champions: The 49ers' Dynasty in Their Own Words*, text by Phil Barber, photography by Michael Zagaris. Behind-the-scenes and action shots from the glory years of the San Francisco 49ers.

• *Liberty: A Jake Grafton Novel*, by Stephen Coonts

• *Ortho's All About Landscaping Decks, Potions, and Bolconies*, by Jo Kellum

• *Mosaics: Inspirational Ideas and Practical Projects*, by Martin Cheek

**BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN**

• *Lady Knight*, by Tamora Pierce

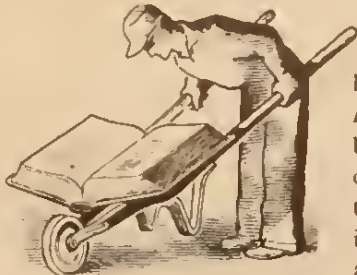
• *Heir Apparent*, by Vivian Vande Velde

• *A New Yorker in the House*, written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola

• *The Village that Vanished*, by Ann Grifalconi, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Jensa Woo  
Potrero Branch Library Manager

**THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY**



If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.

The Potrero Hill Association of  
Merchants and Businesses  
Welcomes New Members:

Army Street Mini Storage, 26th St.  
Pawtrero, Mississippi St.  
Moira Casey, D.C., Healing Touch, 18th St.  
Michael - Gary & Co., 20th St.





## Attention, POTRERO HILL ARTISTS

Artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill are invited to participate in the **48<sup>th</sup> annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition**, April 5 through 26, 2003 at the Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Guidelines include the following:

- An artist may submit two pieces if each piece is 20" x 24" or smaller, one piece if it is larger. Please, no submissions larger than 54" x 54" in size.
- Submissions need to be sturdily framed, ready to hang or display.
- Artwork will be accepted from March 15 through March 29, 2003 during the library's open hours (Tue 10-8, Wed 12-8, Thu 10-6, Fri & Sat 1-6).

For more information, please contact library staff at 1616 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street, phone (415) 355-2822.

## Potrero Hill Home Sales Hit New Records in 2002

By Matthew Borland and Rebecca Ford

Many residents are surprised to hear that Potrero Hill home prices were slightly higher last year than the overheated market of 2000. The average price for a single-family home on the Hill rose to \$748,594 in 2002. The median price of the 43 homes sold last year, however, was \$740,000. The lowest price was \$440,000, with the highest being \$1,200,000. Closing prices were an average of 103% of the asking prices.

Homebuyers had to contend with lower inventory for the last two years, compared to the late 1990s when many homeowners decided to cash in on the hot real estate market. The lower inventory has helped maintain value.

The high-end market on Potrero Hill has come to maturity in the last several years as well. One home sold for over \$1 million in 1999. The following year saw an explosion of high-end home sales, with nine single-family homes selling in this range.

The last two years saw four, and then five homes, selling for over \$1 million. The increase in larger, more expensive homes selling has skewed the statistics somewhat. Average homeowners have experienced a more leveled annual increase in their home's value.

Historically low interest rates and dual income households help maintain real estate values in an uncertain economy and faltering job market. Over the past several years, there has been much discussion about a "bubble" in the Bay Area housing market.

Recently, industry leaders and economists met in Southern California to discuss just this issue. There is a consensus only in that a jump in interest rates would have a devastating effect on the housing affordability index. According to the

California Assn. of Realtors as of November 2002 only 14% of San Francisco residents can afford to purchase the median priced home, compared to 22% for the Bay Area as a whole.

### Rental Market Update

Potrero Hill rental rates, on the other hand, have declined dramatically, in sharp contrast to the property sales market. One particular 3-bedroom flat on Wisconsin Street, that once leased for \$3800, now fetches a mere \$2400.

There is also a significant increase in the number of properties on the rental market. Hill residents no doubt have noticed the increase in "for rent" signs. Prospective tenants are out in droves looking for a better deal on a better apartment. Renters are definitely being more selective about their new homes.

Nice properties are still moving quickly with multiple applications. Properties which have not been updated, have older kitchens/baths or are in less desirable locations are taking longer to rent.

### Back To Buyers

Buyer demand for 2003 appears quite strong, although the average buyer is much more concerned with location and amenities than during the meteoric rise in prices several years ago. Given strong demand, low interest rates and languishing national economy we feel that the housing market should remain stable for the foreseeable future. We do not expect a run up in prices, as we saw in 2002.

*Matthew Borland and Rebecca Ford co-own Ford Real Estate, Potrero Hill's only real estate office. Specializing in Potrero Hill property, Ford Real Estate sold in excess of \$25 million dollars worth of real estate last year.*



### It's your VIEW . . .

. . . and we want to know what YOU think about it!

Please take a moment to answer the following questions, cut out this questionnaire, and mail it to The Potrero View, 953 De Horo St., San Francisco CA 94107.

How do you receive the View?

- ☐ I only read it occasionally  
☐ I pick it up from the same location every month  
☐ I look for it at the beginning of the month  
☐ I subscribe and receive it in the mail

How many people in your household read the View? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you read first?

- ☐ Front page stories  
☐ Editorial/letters to the editor  
☐ Birthdays  
☐ Library news  
☐ Cultural news  
☐ Quickview/local events  
☐ 10 Years Ago  
☐ Classified ads

What new features/types of coverage would you like to see in the View?

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments or suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 (optional, unless you want to volunteer!)

Do you make a point of patronizing our advertisers? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How do you think the View is produced?

- ☐ Paid staff  
☐ By the Neighborhood House  
☐ By volunteers from the neighborhood  
☐ Combination of paid staff and volunteers

How long have you lived and/or worked on the Hill? \_\_\_\_\_

What other newspapers do you read?

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer for the View?

- ☐ News reporting  
☐ Feature writing  
☐ Layout/Production  
☐ Working with ads/advertisers  
☐ Help with delivery

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# Bike Planning on the Hill

By Malcolm MacLachlan

One of the attributes that makes Potrero Hill one of the more sought-after neighborhoods in San Francisco is its proximity to transportation. After all, highways 101 and 280 just about define east/west borders. CalTrain and BART are within walking distance for most of us. And there's always MUNI.

On an average day, I ignore all of them. It's quicker for me to bike. Not to mention a hell of a lot cheaper.

Now bicycling obviously isn't for everybody, especially around here. They don't call it a "hill" for nothing, and the local thoroughfares through the (relative) flatlands—Potrero Avenue to the west, and Third Street to the east—are choked with fast moving car traffic.

But one thing that isn't mentioned enough in discussion of biking and transportation is how everyone benefits when one person chooses to bike. For instance, many bike trips around here represent a car that's not trying to inch towards downtown during rush hour or before a Giants' game. It can mean one less car trying to get on a crowded freeway onramp or idling waiting for someone getting off the CalTrain at the 22nd Street station.

Building a more bike-friendly neighborhood could help preserve our reputation for being an easy neighborhood in which to find a parking place, because people who don't need cars are less likely to have them. Beyond the congestion concerns, it would also help to have a little bit less car-exhaust soot to wash off of our houses each year.

That's why it's important for people of all

transportation persuasions to attend the Community Planning Workshop (for Districts 10 and 11) at 6:30 p.m. on April 2 at the Southeast Community Center at 1800 Oakdale Ave., off Third Street. This is one of a series of workshops held as part of the Bike Plan Update being developed by the City and County of San Francisco and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

These meetings are specifically designed for community input. They represent the best chance for people at the neighborhood level to influence the overall Bike Plan the city will pursue. One of the key issues that will be discussed are possible bike lanes, both on the borders of Potrero Hill and connecting us to other neighborhoods, such as to Bayview or an east-west bike lane linking us to the Mission.

Citizens can also seek to address dangerous intersections, such as those around the conjunction of Highway 101, Potrero Avenue and Cesar Chavez Street. About the only possibility that won't get consideration is the oft-mentioned bike/pedestrian tunnel running through the Hill.

The overall goal of the plan will be to make biking safe and convenient, without hampering other transportation offerings. Surveys show that half the population of San Francisco are bike owners, but most don't use them regularly for transportation due to the lack of safe bike lanes in their neighborhoods.

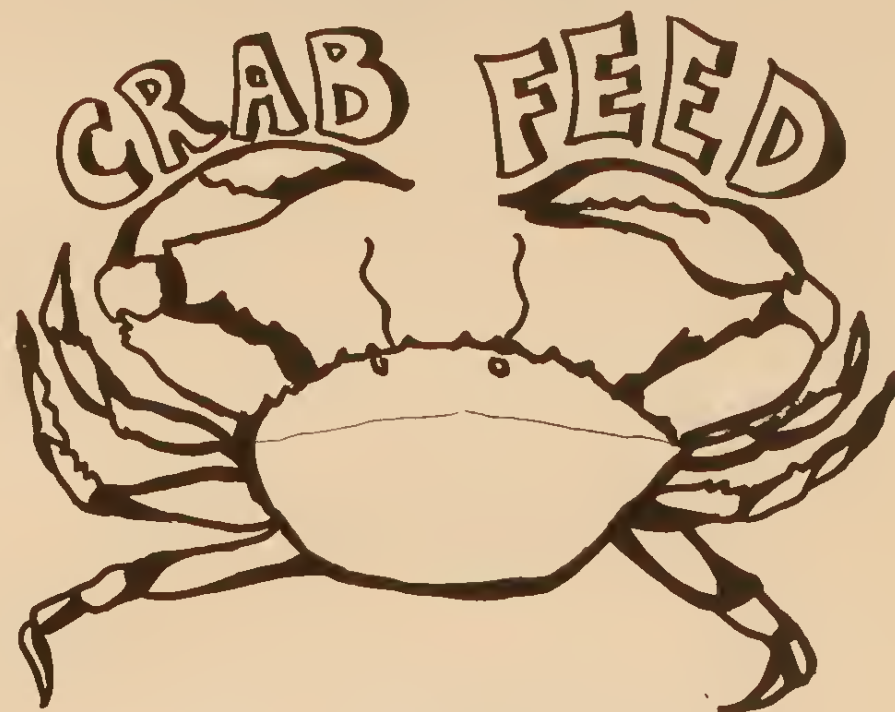
Getting a few of them onto bikes will result in less congestion for everybody. It will also allow Potrero Hill residents to better take advantage of one of the other attributes our neighborhood is known for: great weather.

For more information about the Bike Plan Update contact the SFBC at 431-BIKE or [www.sfbike.org/bikeplan](http://www.sfbike.org/bikeplan).

Malcolm MacLachlan is a Potrero Hill homeowner, bike owner, and bike user.



COME TO...  
THE E.D. MAXWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
ARTS DEPARTMENT BENEFIT



ALL-YOU-CAN EAT CRAB DINNER!

Including first Anchor Steam Beer FREE, salads, soft drinks, bread, beer, and dessert.  
Over 21 only. \$30.00 for everything!

Entertainment by The Spir-Energy Jazz Ensemble

WHERE: St. Gregory's Church, 500 De Haro St., San Francisco

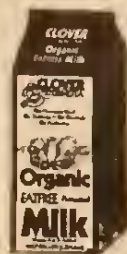
WHY: To raise funds for art, music, and dance supplies

WHEN: Saturday, March 1, 2003 / 6:30 to 9 pm

For further information and tickets, please call the hotline at:  
510.727.4584

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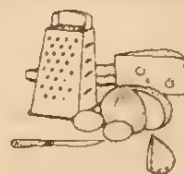
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2 ply/85 ct. -reg 2.19

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**PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP** meets Sunday, March 9, 2-3 p.m., at the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th Street, at Harrison. PFLAG is Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. The meeting is followed by a fundraiser and auction. There is no admission charge, just a charge for raffle tickets and of course if your bid is accepted on an auction item. You can have all you want to eat and drink for \$8.00. Call 415-921-8850 for more information.



**THE MEMORY PROJECT:** A monthly writing workshop for Holocaust survivors, led by trained facilitators, includes time for group members to read and discuss their writings. The group meets the first Friday of every month from 10-noon, in Room 181, Jewish Family and Children's Services, 2150 Post Street, at Scott. For more information call Cherie Galant, LCSW, at 449-3843.



**CALIF. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** invites the general public to participate in Community Conversations to learn more about plans to improve the building, exhibitions, educational programs and visitor services, March 4, 7 p.m., at Morrison Auditorium, Golden Gate Park. The 150th anniversary exhibit, *150 years of Science: Exploring Nature's Wonders*, will be open from 6 to 7 p.m. Public transit routes are #44 O'Shaughnessy, #5 Fulton, #71 Haight-Noriega, #21 Hayes and the N-Judah.



**FREE ADULT VISION SCREENING** for glaucoma, Tuesday, March 4, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Prevent Blindness Northern California, 4200 California Street, Suite 117. The screening takes only ten to fifteen minutes and could save your sight. Appointments are necessary to prevent long waits. Call 387-0934 for an appointment.



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for the AIDS/HIV/HEPC Nightline, providing emotional support, crisis counseling and information for anyone with HIV and Hepatitis C concerns. Call now — a training class starts in early March. Phone 415-984-1902, day or night.



**SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER** presents *Our Eyes: Origen y Pasion*, March 6 through 26. This exhibition features the photographs of three women artists from Mexico City, Lucero Gonzalez, Maru de la Garza, and Lorena Alcaez Minor, and will be part of a month-long celebration of International Latina Art, in conjunction with the exhibit *Punto de Conversion*, taking place in the Bay Gallery at SomArts. This exhibit features installations by Marta Ayala, Catarina Gonzales, Gabriela Lujan, and Elba Rivera. There will be a reception, Thursday, March 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.. For more information call 552-2131, ext 4.



**SOUTHERN EXPOSURE'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**, a non-profit arts organization located in the Mission District, announces *Acceptance: No Exception*, a showcase of Bay Area youth art, co-presented by ODC Theater. It will be on display from March 7 through March 29 at the ODC Theater Gallery, 3153 17th Street. The opening reception will be Wednesday, March 12, from 5-8 p.m., and will feature youth DJs from the Horizons Unlimited DJ Collective.



**THE POTRERO HILL ASSOCIATION OF MERCHANTS & BUSINESSES WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:**  
The San Francisco Bay Guardian, Mississippi St.  
Coach 21, Mariposa St.  
House of Red, Carolina St.  
David Kerr Design, Connecticut St.  
Dan Lipman, DC., 18th Street



**SAN FRANCISCO BOYS CHORUS** will hold its annual gala benefit Saturday, March 8. The evening commences at 6 p.m., and will be held at the Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street. The event features a cocktail hour, live and silent auctions, dinner and entertainment by the Chorus, comedian Johnny Steele, and a special surprise guest. Proceeds from the Gala will fund the music program and the tuition assistance program. Tickets are \$200 for a single, \$325 for a pair, \$1500 for a table of ten, and \$2000 for a corporate table of ten. Reservations can be made by calling 415-665-2330.



**STORY TIME AT CHRISTOPHER'S BOOKS:** We are reading aloud to kids on the second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. For information call 826-6196 or e-mail walertson@earthlink.net.



**SF LEAGUE OF URBAN GARDENERS** presents a class entitled *Water Systems: Catchment, Storage and Use*, Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn how to catch some of the winter rainfall for use during the dry summer season, and use reclaimed water in gardening and landscaping, at Building 603 in the Presidio at Mason and Halleck Streets. \$15.00, preregistration required. Call 415-561-7755.



**GLOBAL WOMEN'S STRIKE:** "Women Say No To War — Invest in Caring Not Killing." Join women in over 70 countries in an anti-war march on March 8, International Women's Day. Meet at noon, at the Bechtel Corporation, 50 Beale Street, near the Embarcadero, march to Union Square. Coordinated by the International Wages for Housework Campaign. For information, 415-626-4114 or http://womenstrike8m.server101.com



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**NOE VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC** presents guitar soloist David Tanenbaum in concert with the Falsafi Duo and the San Francisco Conservatory Guitar Ensemble, Sunday, March 9, at 4 p.m. at 1021 Sanchez Street, in the Noe Valley Ministry Sanctuary. General admission is \$12, students and seniors \$8. For more information or to reserve tickets call 415-646-5236 or visit www.nvcm.org.



**MUNI Tix at Nabe**  
MUNI tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro, Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm  
**Senior MUNI: \$8.00**  
**Youth MUNI: \$8.00**  
For more info, call 826-8080

**FROM WHARF RATS TO LORDS OF THE DOCKS**, a performance by Ian Ruskin, chronicles the endeavors of San Francisco labor organizer Harry Bridges to organize West Coast dock workers, at the Maritime Museum, Bay View Room, Beach and Polk Streets, Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 for members of the SF Maritime National Park Association; \$10 to the general public. For information call 415-661-6662.



**FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS:** This is your last chance to attend a free seminar at the Bayview/Anna E. Walden Branch of the Public Library. Get expert advice on the ins and outs of buying a home, Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library is located at 5075 Third Street. Admission is free. For information call 415-715-4100 or check www.sfpl.org.



**PILE DRIVING NOTIFICATION**  
Foundation construction is about to begin for the J. David Gladstone Institute project, at 1650 Owens Street, between 15th and 16th streets. Piles will be driven beginning March 17 for a period of four weeks. Work hours will be Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have any questions, call 650-208-2583.



**ART AUCTION AND PARTY** to benefit Friends of the Urban Forest takes place at SomArts Gallery, 934 Brannan St. in San Francisco. There will be a reception and hors d'oeuvres, live and silent auction featuring nearly 100 works of art inspired by trees, entertainment by S.F. Feetwarmers Jazz Band, 6 to 9 p.m. Ticket info call 355-9988 x 10. Free preview on Sat. and Sun., March 29-30, from 12 to 5 p.m. Co-Chairs: Stanley R. Gatti and Liz Westover.



**THE SAN FRANCISCO QUILTERS GUILD** will present their tenth biennial show "Symphony of Color" at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 8th St. at Brannan Street. Several special exhibits will be included in the show. Admission is \$8 good for both days, and children under 12 free with paid adult. There will be quilts and wearable arts made by the nearly 300 members of the S.F. Quilters Guild including a special challenge exhibit; a demonstration of hand quilting, computer design demonstrations, artist's lectures and a merchant mall. "Butterfly Garden" a beautiful quilt featuring reproduction fabrics of the 1930s will be raffled off on Sunday, March 23.



**CHOREOGRAPHER MARGARET JENKINS AND POET MICHAEL PALMER** present an evening of discussion and readings about their collaborative process. This event is part of a series of public discussions and showings leading up to the Margaret Jenkins' Dance Company's 30th Anniversary this April at Fort Mason in the Herbst Pavilion. For more information and tickets, look online at www.mjdc.org.



**THE OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE's** monthly meeting will be Saturday, March 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The topic of the panel discussion will be *Women Who Made A Difference In World Politics*. Admission is free. Call the OWL office for location of the meeting.



**RAGTIME: THE FIRST AMERICAN MUSIC:** Mention the word "ragtime" and most people think of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer," and the popular movie, *The Sting*. This film sparked a renewal of interest in ragtime music in the United States. Ragtime's first heyday began back in the late 1890s and lasted for two decades. Ragtime is a lively style of music in which a syncopated melody is played against a steady "boom-chick" accompaniment. The genre gets its name from the practice of ragging transforming a "straight" musical line into something with a bit of a swing. Although the piano is the instrument most closely associated with the rag, much of ragtime music was played by ensembles in local music halls and on the vaudeville circuit. Violinist David Reffkin who has been collecting ragtime orchestrations for nearly 30 years, founded The American Ragtime Ensemble in an effort to recreate the "tuneful, danceable, singable, embraceable melodies" of a "gentler" era. Reffkin directs the American Ragtime Ensemble in a special concert Saturday, March 1, at 1 p.m. at The California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. For information call: 415-750-7165.



**Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**  
953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107  
(415) 826-8080  
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

**ON-GOING MEETINGS:**

Al-Anon	Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & Thursdays, 8:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous	Wednesdays, 8 pm
Omega Boys Club	Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Employment Workshops	Fridays, 10:00 am

Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Monday of each month

**FACILITIES:**

Auditorium for theater presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops, and receptions  
Bulletin board with employment and event listings  
Gymnasium and recreational space  
Meeting space rental available to community groups

**All services and activities FREE**

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is wheelchair accessible. If you should need the services of a certified American Sign Language Interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or a meeting in an alternative format, please call (415) 826-8080 at least one week prior to event. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving the most needy of the community with an emphasis on youth and education.



CULTURAL ODYSSEY



Cultural Odyssey and the African American Art & Culture Complex will launch a Spring Season of performances with The Underground Jazz Cabaret, hosted by Idris Ackamoor and Rhodessa Jones, and featuring saxophone great Chico Freeman, Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, at 8 p.m. The following weekend Jones and Ackamoor will be featured in an exciting double bill of "They Speak Through Us," and "The OG and the B-Boy," which will run Thursday – Saturday, April 3-12, at 8 p.m. All performances will be in the Buriel Clay Theater at the African American Art and Culture Complex located at 762 Fulton St., in San Francisco. For tickets and more information call 292-1850 or Tickets.com and TIX Union Square. Seen above, left to right, Rhodessa Jones and Chico Freeman.

Photo by Lorainne Capparell and Lars Speyer

Performing Arts History Project Seeks Volunteers

A free presentation on the history and mission of the LEGACY Oral History Project's documentation services for the dance, music and theater communities of the San Francisco Bay Area will be given on Wednesday, March 5, at the Performing Arts Library and Museum at 401 Van Ness Ave., 4th floor.

Program Manager Alyson Belcher will also discuss LEGACY's upcoming 8th Annual Summer Training Workshop and opportunities for volunteer participation in program activities.

LEGACY Oral History Project was founded in 1988 by Program Director Jeff Friedman, a choreographer and dancer based in San Francisco since 1979. Its mission is to record, preserve and make accessible the contributions and recollections of individual artists in the performing arts.

The collection, the largest of its kind outside of New York City, covers a wide range from vaudeville, Cambodian court dance, ballet, capoeira, to modern, jazz, and tap dance. After merging with the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum in 2001, LEGACY now serves dance, music, theater and all hybrid forms of performance and its materials are housed in the Library's collection where bound volumes of the oral histories are available for public viewing.

Call 255-4800 ext. 823 for more info.

Academy of Sciences Celebrates 150 Years

Before Cable Cars, Golden Gate Park or the Pony Express there was the California Academy of Sciences. Founded in 1853, the Academy will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2003 with special exhibits and an array of public activities.

The Academy, which is comprised of the Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium and the Natural History Museum, is San Francisco's largest cultural institution with nearly 800,000 annual visitors.

In 2002 the Academy announced its architectural plans for a comprehensive rebuilding of the museum at its current location in Golden Gate Park, and so the current space is scheduled to close December, 2003, with construction of the new building to begin in early 2004. During the interim period, the Academy will relocate to a temporary home in San Francisco's South of Market area, at 875 Howard St., where it will continue to showcase many animals from the Steinhart Aquarium and a variety of natural history exhibits.

More than 200 classes, workshops, lectures and performances will dot the calendar of the Academy's 150th year. On April 5 and 6, the Academy will host an Earth Day celebration focusing on Rainforests of the World. During the first weekend of September, on the 6th and 7th, the Music Concourse in front of the Academy will be transformed into an outdoor festival site for visitors to hear music, see performances, learn about Academy expeditions, collections, and research, see natural curiosities, live animals and ride a 75-foot Century Ferris Wheel.



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## The Laramie Project at City College

The docudrama *The Laramie Project* will be presented Saturday March 1, Friday March 7, and Saturday March 8 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. at the Diego Rivera Theatre on the CCSF campus, 50 Phelan Ave. This drama deals with the shocking death of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man, who in 1998 was beaten and left to die impaled on a fence in Laramie, Wyoming. His death became a symbol of intolerance for the nation, but for the people of Laramie the event was deeply personal. It is their voices we hear in the theatre piece which uses 28 actors to portray the 68 characters in the play under the direction of John Wilk. For more information, call 415-239-3100, ext. 3.

## George Orwell's *Animal Farm* at Langton Arts

The Custom Made Theatre Company offers George Orwell's timeless fable of absolute power corrupting absolutely adapted by Nelson Bond. It opens March 14 at the New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom (between 8th and 9th streets). Performances are March 14-16, 20-24, 27-30, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday performances at 2 p.m. The performance Monday, March 24, is a pay-what-you-can Actor's Night. Tickets are \$20 for the general public; \$15 for students, seniors, and TBA members. For tickets and information call 415-262-0477.

## The Marsh Extends *Chicken: A 1-Ho Show*

The Marsh, at 1062 Valencia St., is extending David Henry Sherry's *Chicken: A 1-Ho Show* through March 29, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Rob Hurvitt, S.F. Chronicle, says: "the gangly, bushy-haired Sherry is a sharp comic, using his limber body and versatile voice to create memorably funny portraits." Thursday tickets are \$10-\$15 (sliding scale), \$15 on Friday and Saturday. For tickets and information, call 415-826-5750.

## Women's Work Series at Venue 9

Women's Work is an ongoing, bi-monthly series featuring live performances of dance, theater, music, spoken word, and multimedia. Footloose Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry brings together a diverse group of women to share the bill at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays at Venue 9, 252 9th St. (between Folsom and Howard).

**Tuesday, March 11:** Samantha Beers performs a solo dance, *Conspiracies of Resonance: An Inevitable*; Judy B. offers *Leftovers*, a monologue about cooking gourmet food, speaking French, and ending an affair; Claudia Barr's one-act play, *40 Cents a Minute*, is about lovers waiting out a time of unemployment; Dattner's comedic monologue, *So I Covered All the Mirrors*, provides a romp though the neurotic mind.

**Tuesday, March 18:** Dancer-choreographer Rebecca Pappas presents a quartet performing *Aqua*, a modern dance piece inspired by the sulfur pits at Lassen National Park; *Revolting Mom*, online journal of Jone Smith, Berkeley Housewife, a multimedia performance of a diary in slides, movement and dance by Dancing Ear, is Berkeley's answer to *Absolutely Fabulous*; New Trails Dance Theater presents *Voice is Heard*, a dance solo choreographed and performed by Cynthia Newland, which was created as a prayer of compassion for oppressed women around the world; Positive Knowledge's *Out of the Fire* melds the essential elements of music, the spoken word and movement into a provoking investigation of reality.

**Tuesday, March 25:** Heather Gold presents *I Look Like an Egg, But I Identify as a Cookie*, a personal show that satirizes pretend relationships and identities while baking chocolate chip cookies; Brittany Brown and Carol Nelson, in *underneath "all these nothings,"* reveal the progression from independence to dependence; Sheeta Ghandi and company in *It's A Sign* unravel how superstition continues to permeate our daily lives.



# Performing Arts Roundup

By Ann Longknife



Class Act Theatre presents Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance" at Goat Hall, 400 Missouri St., March 6 - 29. The cast, above, includes (left to right) Padma Moyer, Margel Kaufman, Barbara Michelson, Michael Medici, and Hal Savage.

James Sonders photo

## Albee's *A Delicate Balance* at the Phoenix

The Hill's own Margel Kaufman costars in Edward Albee's Pulitzer-Prize-winning play *A Delicate Balance*. Presented by Class Act Theatre Company under the direction of Richard Harder, the play opens March 7 (preview March 6) at the Phoenix Theatre, 414 Mason St. (between Geary and Post), 6th floor, and runs through March 29. Albee's wickedly funny and penetrating family drama is a timely commentary about fear and madness and the limits of friendship. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 5 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20; special rates on Thursdays if seats are available. Reservations are recommended. Call 415-364-3037.

## Traveling Jewish Theatre Presents *The Chosen*

The Traveling Jewish Theatre presents *The Chosen*, adapted from Chaim Potok's novel by Potok and Aaron Posner, at the Magic Theatre at Fort Mason, March 13-23. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. General admission: \$25-\$35; Thursdays pay-what-you-can. For information call 415-441-8822, or visit [www.atjt.com](http://www.atjt.com)

## Richard 3 at Thick House

Thick Description presents William Shakespeare's *Richard 3*, edited and directed by Tony Kelly, Thursdays-Sundays through April 6 at Thick House, 1695 18th St. In this new 95-minute production, three extremely busy and physical actors perform all the roles in a tragedy of great ambitions and monstrous crimes. Thick Description has a history of chamber productions of the Bard. "Thick Description's style is stripped down, sleeves rolled up and ready for action. It makes a virtue of small means. They put their energy where they should: into the text," wrote Judith Green in the San Jose Mercury News. Previews Saturday and Sunday March 8-9 (audience members will be paid \$1 for attending); opening night Monday March 10. Showtimes 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25 sliding scale. For more info and reservations call 415-401-8081 or visit [www.thickdescription.org](http://www.thickdescription.org).

## Do the Vatican Rag at Goat Hall

Open Stage Repertory Theater in association with Goat Hall Productions presents *Tom Foolery: A Mod Cop Musical Revue* featuring the words and music of Tom Lehrer. The revue opened February 15 and runs Fridays-Sundays through March 16 at Goat Hall, 400 Missouri at 19th Street. Open Stage director says Lehrer's work is as "relevant as it was 40 years ago when he was writing about the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic ('Send the Marines'), the 2nd Ecumenical Council ('Vatican Rag') and the rise of eccentric bedroom behavior ('The Masochism Tango')." The show was originally adapted for the stage in 1980- by Cameron Mackintosh, producer of *Cats*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20 adult; seniors/youth \$15. For more information call 877-OPENSTAGE.



## Chutzpah Comes to Fort Mason's Cowell Theatre

West County Theatre Arts Guild brings *Chutzpah* to the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason Thursdays-Sundays, March 27-April 13. This new musical play, directed by Pauline Pfandler with musical direction by Sonia Tubridy, uses humor, archival photos and live period music to tell the amazing story of the Jewish chicken ranchers of Sonoma County between 1915 and 1960. The story is revealed through the eyes of Madison, a young college woman studying journalism at Cal-Berkeley. She takes us on a journey through the homes, farms and town of this historical immigrant community. We are introduced to the historical figures who shaped the region. We smell the marvelous odor of the food preparation in the kitchen, feel the anger and electricity of the towns and understand the passion of people in a new land . . . a new home. Performance times are 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$35 reserved and \$25 general Thursdays; \$40 reserved and \$30 general on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets and information call 415-345-7575 or online at [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com).

## Pamela Z and ODC Theater Present *Voci*

*Voci* will be presented at ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street (at Shotwell) March 27-29 and April 3-5 at 8 p.m. *Voci* is a new solo multimedia performance work by composer, performer, and audio artist Pamela Z. The work explores the sonic, cultural, physical and artistic worlds of voice — celebrating the broad range of colors in the singing and speaking voice while examining scientific and cultural phenomena around the voice and the many metaphors for voice. Tickets are \$12 Thursday, \$15 Friday and Saturday. For reservations and information call 415-863-9834, Wednesday-Saturday 2-5 p.m.

## Elsewhere Here at Yugen's Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen's monthly series — Yugen Presents — features Butoh performer Ledoh and musician Reverend Markus Hawkins in a performance of live violin and Butoh, celebrating 10 years of artistic collaboration. The history of these artists is rooted in the local underground arts movement. Ledoh recalls that in the early years they conducted guerrilla performances on art school campuses as "a reaction against institutionalized creativity." Showtimes: Monday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 11 at 8 p.m. at Theatre of Yugen at Noh Space 2840 Mariposa at Florida. Tickets are \$10-\$15 sliding scale. For reservations call 415-621-7978 for reservations or visit [www.theatreofyugen.org](http://www.theatreofyugen.org).

## Traveling Jewish Theatre Presents *Opening to You*

The world premiere of *Opening to You* will be presented March 10 (previews March 6-9) through April 6 by the Traveling Jewish Theatre at 470 Florida St. This original theatre piece with music based on Norman Fischer's Zen-inspired translation of biblical psalms uses an ensemble of guest performers to bring the poetry of the psalms into the twenty-first century. It is set in a contemporary landscape that mirrors the loss and dispossession of the exiled Israelites who composed many of the original psalms. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 general, \$20 senior, and \$12.50 student. For information contact Miriam Goodman 415-626-5149.



Kate Bornstein

## World Premiere of *Strangers in Paradox*

Theatre Rhinoceros premieres Kate Bornstein's new play *Strangers in Paradox: The True Story of Casey and the Kidd* March 15-April 12. The play tells the story of Casey and the Kidd, those lovable, lithe and lethal lesbian serial killers who are the feature attraction on tonight's live broadcast of the top-rated murder reality TV show, America's Least Wanted. It's Dr. Kervorkian meets Thelma and Louise in this daring multimedia piece about sex, death and renewal. WARNING: This Play Contains Queer Sex, Wet Blood, and Murder Most Foul. Opening Nights Saturday March 15 at 8 p.m. and Sunday March 16 at 7 p.m. Showtimes are Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$25. For reservations and information call 415-861-5079.



# Mani/ Pedi a Hit on the Hill

By Adrienne Arieff

Former award-winning art director Kelly Hensley took an unconventional career turn in July 2001 when she opened the now well-known Mani Pedi nail salon.

After some soul searching post-September 11, Hensley decided to make a career switch from a 15-year stint in advertising, and felt that Potrero Hill needed a nail salon. She has created minimalist airy spaces sans the typical smell of acrylic nails and the glare of fluorescent lighting. There's sun streaming in, fresh flowers, and the lovely Potrero Hill breeze.

Hensley has been a loyal Potrero resident for over seven years and counting. When speaking to her one gets the feeling that she is a very spiritual person who sincerely believes in destiny and timing. She explained that her now landlord, Helen Peterson (who by the way has been living on Potrero Hill since the 1960s and still looks like a Pucci-clad supermodel!) was waiting for the perfect time and person to rent the now Mani/Pedi. They met on May 28, 2001, had an instant connec-

tion and Hensley had the keys in hand two days later. Mani Pedi officially opened up shop on July 14, 2001.

Mani Pedi has become the new "it" spot for residents on the Hill and just about all over San Francisco. Before Mani Pedi opened a lot of women were desperate for a manicure joint and now we have two! Some of the hard to find products to beautify oneself even further are carried at Mani /Pedi. One of the lines, Baiaime, is a unique range of botanical beauty products that tap the wisdom of the indigenous peoples of Australia. No joke — these products are a miracle in a bottle! (Baiaime is only sold at two retail outlets in the U.S.)

Mani Pedi offers after hours parties, where friends can gather to celebrate whatever they choose or when they just need an excuse for a group polish. Hensley will even arrange the catering and libations, if desired. The services are simple, clean and well executed. Also, check out the community board Hensley has created where all residents/ clients can post their company information or upcoming art exhibitions or services.

Mani Pedi, The Beach House, 1447 & 1501 20th Street, (425) 401-6264, [www.myanipedi.com](http://www.myanipedi.com)

Adrienne Arieff is a Potrero Hill resident.



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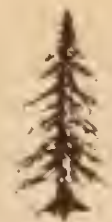
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## Sweet Drinks are Empty Foods

By Julie Engberg

Obeey your thirst! Do the Dew! It's the real thing! Be a Pepper! Do these phrases sound familiar? Recently, Brittany Spears has been singing the praises of Pepsi and Coca-Cola has sponsored a trip to London to experience the wonder of Harry Potter's life. They are the promotions of all the soft drink and fruit drink companies bombarding you to drink their "liquid candy." And you know what? IT'S WORKING! People spend billions of dollars buying soda and artificial fruit drinks every year.

Soda is the best selling product in America's grocery stores, and the third-most consumed beverage in the world. An average American drinks 53 gallons of soda a year. That is the equivalent of drinking 1-1/2 cans of soda every day for one year, giving your body a heaping 83,550 extra calories per year. These drinks may be popular; however, the daily consumption of high sugar sodas and fruit drinks can be dangerous to your health.

Nutritionally speaking, soda and artificial fruit drinks are high-calorie, high-sugar foods that lack any important vitamins or minerals for our bodies. They are "empty" foods. For example, an average 12-oz can of soda contains 150 calories and 40 grams of sugar, which is like eating 10 teaspoons of sugar all at once! Don't be fooled by fruit drinks either. The same companies who market soda also sell drinks they try to sell as "healthy" because it's labeled as a fruit flavored drink.

Pepsi-Cola markets the fruit juice drinks Fruit Works and Mirinda. Coca-Cola distributes Powerade sports drinks, Minute Maid juices and punch, Hi-C fruit drink, and Fruitopia. These fruit drinks match with other fruit-flavored beverages like Kool-Aid, Sunny Delight, and Hawaiian Punch and Snapple.

These "mock" fruit juices contain as much added sugar as soda and may only contain 5-10% actual fruit juice. These empty foods do not give your body any important nutrients like calcium for strong bones. Consuming beverages like soda and fruit drinks every day can be hard on your

body and can put you at increased risk of dental problems, obesity, diabetes, osteoporosis, and heart disease.

### Sweet Tips For Consumers

Here are some healthful steps to give your body more of a nutrition boost instead of filling up on high sugar, empty calorie foods and beverages.

**1. Read the food label.** Check the ingredient list for added sweeteners. Added sugars come in many forms like high fructose corn syrup, corn syrup, dextrose, glucose, fructose, maltose, honey, and molasses. Avoid foods and beverages that contain these names in the first 5 items on the ingredient list. Or better yet, choose food and beverages without these names at all!

**2. Choose 100% juice or whole fruit.** Read the food label for 100% juice. If it is not listed on the food product, you are likely drinking a lot of extra sugar. Libby's Juicy Juice is an example of 100% fruit juice. Or choose a piece of whole fruit for a sweet, refreshing snack. Another idea is to blend fruit, yogurt, some 100% juice and ice for a tasty fruit smoothie.

**3. Avoid "super-size" sodas.** Super-size sodas can double and even triple the amount of sugar you put in your bodies. For example, a 32-oz super-size soda would be like eating 30 teaspoons of straight sugar!

**4. At the supermarket.** Fill your cart up with foods on the perimeter of the store like vegetables, fruits, low fat dairy products, lean meats and poultry. Many foods in the center aisles of the store contain added sweeteners and refined sugars (i.e., high-sugar cereals, cookies, snack bars, sodas and fruit drinks).

**5. When dining out.** Choose water with lemon wedges, or flavored, unsweetened seltzer water (such as Calistoga), or unsweetened iced tea.

March is National Nutrition Month — "Healthy Eating, Healthy You!" Choose to drink water, low-fat milk, or 100% juice this month instead of soda for a healthier you!

Julie Engberg, RD, is a nutritionist at the Potrero Hill Health Center. Call 920-1250 for more information.

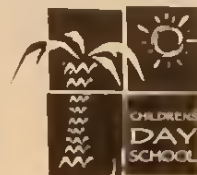
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## Avant-Garde Band Reunites for Benefit Gig in Dogpatch

Fifty Foot Hose, an acclaimed avant-garde band, will reunite March 16 for a benefit gig, raising money for the Potrero Hill Nursery School.

Band founder Cork Marcheschi, now a prominent sculptor and neon artist, melds purely electronic sounds with the standard instrumentation of classic rock — guitars, electric bass, and drum set.

The benefit concert takes place at 3 p.m. on Sunday at a private studio space located at 1072 Illinois St. in Dogpatch. Tickets are \$20 and can be reserved in advance via e-mail at 50fthose@earthlink.net. Remaining tickets

will be sold at the door. Cash or checks only.

Bands such as Pere Ubu, Throbbing Gristle, and Chrome have cited the Fifty Foot Hose, established in 1967, as influences and many consider the band's experimental blend of pre-synth electronix to be years ahead of its time. "The basic intent was to expand electronic music into rock'n'roll," states founder Marcheschi, citing those whose music influenced him, such as Edgar Varese, Luigi Russolo, John Cage and other experimenters. Marcheschi plays an array of electronic devices, including Dual Tube Oscillators, Theremin, Echolette, Squeaky Stick and Spark Gap.

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In *A Dio*, a 19-minute film directed by Gregory Viens, Leah Levy listens to her grandmother. *A Dio* and four other short films will be shown at the S.F. Jewish Film Festival's 3rd annual New Jewish Filmmaker Project Kick-Off on Wednesday, March 26 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

## Program for Young Filmmakers Coming to Yerba Buena Center

The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival presents the 3rd annual New Jewish Filmmaker Project Kick-Off with a program of short films for aspiring young filmmakers, in the Screening Room of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26.

The program showcases various filmmaking techniques with a collection of short films exploring love, family, and what it means to be Jewish in a changing world. This screening is part of a year-round collaboration between the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the S.F. Jewish Film Festival. Admission for youth between the ages 15-19 years old is free. Tickets are \$6 general admission, \$5 for students, seniors and Center members. For tickets and information call 978-2787.

The program includes: *A Dio* directed by Gregori Viens: Three generations of women discuss their family's narrow escape from Rhodes, a Greek island threatened by anti-semitism in 1939. *King of the Jews* directed by Jay Rosenblatt: A found footage construction using various techniques explores concepts of Christ. *Snaw Day* directed by Madeline Scharzman: Family memories are evoked during a snowy journey on the B train from Manhattan to Boro Park, Brooklyn. *Three Kisses* directed by Joanna Hibbard: An animated triptych interlocks a travelers' memories in a kiss-like structure with approach, smack and release. *Nat Another Jewish Movie* directed by the 2002 New Jewish Filmmaker Project: A candid look at what it means to grow up Jewish in the Bay Area.

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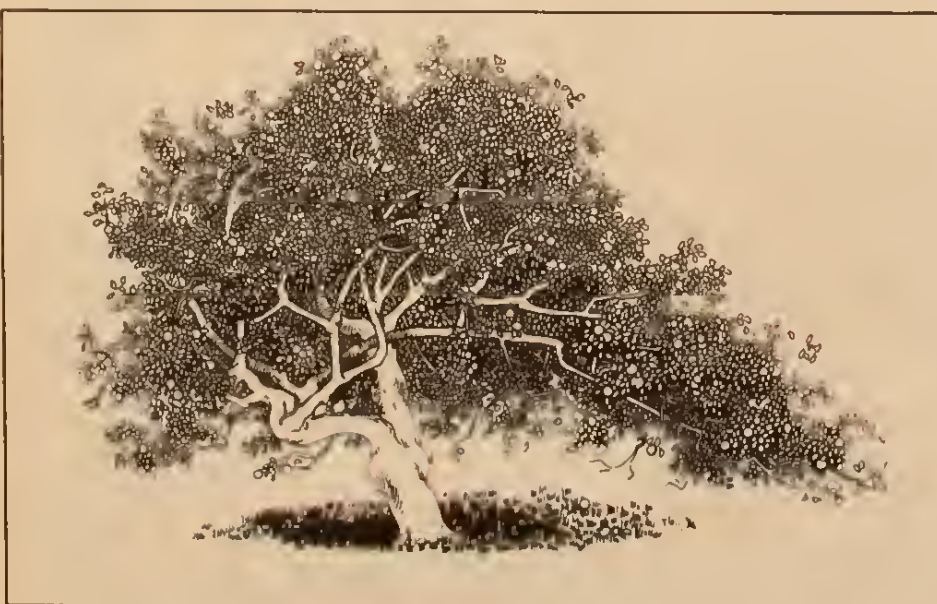
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## Vision Loss Is Not a Normal Part of Aging

# Open Your Eyes to the Facts

Do you know the differences between normal changes in vision with age and abnormal changes in vision due to age-related eye disease? Open your eyes to the facts. Despite what most people think, vision loss is not a normal part of aging. Everyone experiences some vision changes due to normal aging; these include difficulty focusing on near tasks like reading, difficulty distinguishing colors and contrast, and the need for more light. However, some vision problems are more serious and are not correctable with medicine, surgery or conventional eyeglasses.

More than a quarter (26 percent) of Americans 75 years of age and older report some form of vision impairment, representing 4.3 million persons ("Lighthouse National Survey on Vision Loss," 1995; data applied to population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000) typically as a result of common age-related eye diseases such as macular degeneration and glaucoma. Lighthouse International advises older adults to have regular eye exams to determine if they are experiencing normal vision changes that could be corrected with a new eyeglass prescription or better lighting or if they have a serious vision problem.

The following tips for recognizing the signs of the most common vision impairments among older adults were developed by Lighthouse International from research funded by the AARP Andrus Foundation and supplemental funding from the National Eye Institute. According to Cynthia Stuen, DSW, Senior Vice President for Education at Lighthouse International, it is important to see your eye doctor:

\* If you have a need for more light and a gradual, spotty loss of detail vision (dry macular degeneration) or a sudden and severe loss of central vision (wet macular degeneration). These may be the warning signs of macular degeneration.

\* If your vision seems hazy, you are having trouble distinguishing colors, have an increased sensitivity to glare, and/or light scatters and appears like a "halo." These may be the warning signs of a cataract.

\* If you are experiencing a subtle loss of contrast, difficulty driving at night, and/or loss of peripheral vision (late stage glaucoma). These may be the warning signs of glaucoma.

Dr. Stuen advises, "If you are an older person, be sure to see your ophthalmologist or optometrist at least once a year. And, if you notice any changes in your vision, see your eye doctor immediately."

If you or anyone you know would like a free copy of a new brochure called, *Vision Loss Is Not a Normal Part of Aging — Open Your Eyes to the Facts*, as well as information on vision loss and how to locate vision rehabilitation services and other professional referrals in your area, call Lighthouse International's toll-free number 1-800-829-0500 or visit the website at [www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org). This booklet and other awareness materials are made possible by a grant from the AARP Andrus Foundation.

*Lighthouse International, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1905, is a worldwide resource on vision impairment and vision rehabilitation.*



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## Sip Wine and Watch Clowns at the Galleria in Showplace Square

Wine & Circus, a new wine auction and tasting event that pairs great wine with great circus acts, makes its debut on Saturday, March 15, between 4 and 7 p.m. at the Galleria in Showplace Square on Potrero Hill. The event, hosted by Circus Center, is a fundraiser for the San Francisco School of Circus Arts, the New Pickle Circus and the San Francisco Youth Circus.

More than 60 premium Napa Valley wines will be featured. Among the vintners pouring are Beaucanon Estate, Chappellet Winery and Vineyard, Corison Winery, Emilio's, Terrace Vineyard, Gustavo Thrace, Grgich Hills Cellar, Honig Vineyard and Winery, Mumm Napa Valley, Paradigm Winery, Pride Mountain Vineyards, Raymond Vineyard and Cellar, Renteria Reverie on Diamond Mountain, Robert Keenan Winery, Robert Pecota Winery, Schramsberg Vineyards, and Signorello Vineyards.

For circus-art aficionados, there are original paintings by Clito-award-winning Sonoma County illustrator and artist Carol Golden. She created the artwork used to publicize this year's three-panel screen of circus performers in action, as well as a lively image of a traditional circus clown.

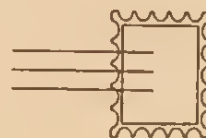
The program will also feature live perfor-

mances by Circus Center artists, including the Mystic Pixies acrobats, chair balancer Joel Baker, stilt walkers, and clowns. The circus entertainment will culminate in a spectacular solo aerial-strap act performed by world-renowned Russian aerialist, Dmitri Nekrassov. A former member of the USSR national Gymnastics Team, Nekrassov has toured all over the world with the Moscow Circus. He has also appeared in Cirque du Soleil's Mystere in Las Vegas, and other venues in that city.

Tickets to Wine & Circus are \$75 in advance and \$100 at the door. Ticket prices include a \$30 tax-deductible donation to Circus Center. For tickets and information call 759-8123 or visit the Circus Center website at [www.circuscenter.org](http://www.circuscenter.org). The Galleria at Showplace Square is located at 101 Henry Adams St.

The Circus Center, located at 755 Frederick St. in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury, is the non-profit arts organization that operates the S.F. School of Circus Arts, the New Pickle Circus, and a student-performing troupe, the S.F. Youth Circus. Circus Center's community outreach program includes free training programs to victims of domestic violence and free performances for people living with a HIV/AIDS, the homeless, low-income seniors, and at-risk youth.

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## Remembering the Glory Days of S.F.'s Old Movie Palaces

By Chuck Elkind

For movie-goers accustomed to "big box" multi-screen theatres, a first viewing of the Castro Theatre's rococo architecture is a revelation. One of the latest of a vanishing breed, in earlier years the Castro's ornate décor was in step with the big lavish downtown theatres: The Orpheum, Golden Gate and Fox.

Neighborhood houses tried to emulate the Castro but were poor imitations and fell far short. And few theatres could match the "mighty Wurlitzer organ" whose grand sound still reverberates throughout the Castro's cavernous auditorium.

In those hard times before World War II, theatres had to offer many come-ons besides a glitzy appearance. For one, the New Fillmore trumpeted its "Dish Night" in which each admission ticket earned a piece of china. Matrons would religiously go each Wednesday until they had collected complete dinner settings for each family member. In the New Fillmore district, dinner tables not set with the identical "Dish Night" pattern were rareties.

And the President, a former burlesque house, was packed for its monthly "Screeno

Night." Barely interested in the film offering, attendees were transfixed by hopes of winning the then princely sum of \$100 prize for a "Screeno Night's" one — and only — bingo.

The New Mission, meanwhile, mesmerized boys with the lure of fantasies galore. Youngsters could experience dangerous Foreign Legion adventures alongside Cary Grant and Gary Cooper; herding cattle on the range with saddle buddies Hoot Gibson and Johnny Mack Brown; or torrid love scenes with Jean Harlow or Carole Lombard.

One of the city's then scarce porno theatres, the Princess lasciviously beckoned with risqué still shots of "Gambling With Souls." The underaged ones who connived their way into the theatre, however, felt totally bamboozled. Instead of erotica, they were dealt a camp diatribe about marijuana addiction.

Although the inducements could not possibly have been more dissimilar, they had one common feature: Yesteryear's admission ticket and refreshment cost a fraction of a serving of today's "big box" pop corn.

*Chuck Elkind, a native San Franciscan, spent many happy childhood hours in the dark.*

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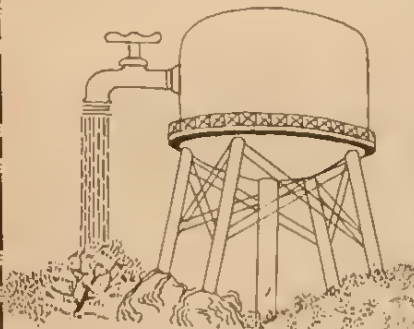
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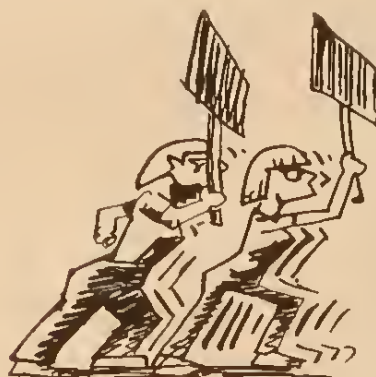
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**ARE YOU READY FOR THE TAX MAN?** I'll help you get it all together before the April 15 deadline. Experienced in clutter-busting and paper-sorting, with an eye for detail & a head for figures. Proficient in Quicken, QuickBooks, MS Word, Excel, etc. I can work at your house or sort it all out at mine. Carol, 647-9060.

**PAINTING & CARPENTRY:** Structural & foundation. Plumbing, elec., roof repairs, hauling & tree trimming. Jim Kennedy, 661-3724. State lic. #751689.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**OVERWHELMED BY CLUTTER? RELOCATING?** As featured on HGTV, NPR and in the Chronicle, ShipShape offers expert, simple solutions to what goes where. We will cut through clutter, defrazzle moves & restore simplicity and peace of mind to busy lives. Homes, offices, packing, and more. Free phone consultation/brochure. Call (415) 550-0658.

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**HANDYMAN/CARPENTER.** Repair a door, install cabinets or shelves, fix a fence, deck or windows, even some electrical. I do good work at a reasonable rate. Robert 566-3389.

**\$125-\$175 GARAGE.** Kansas between 18th & 19th. Info: 824-3662.

**CUSTOM CARPENTRY.** Need help with your clutter? I can build beautiful custom bookcases, CD shelving, custom carpentry and other interior projects for a reasonable price. No job too small! I'm happy to build to your specifications, or help you design what you need. Refs avail.. E-mail: andrew@pixon.com or call (415) 647-6397.

**MAKE IT WHAT YOU WANT!** Interior Design: Have the home you always imagined for yourself. **Color Consultant:** Having trouble picking out those perfect colors for your home? Set up a consultation to get the color you want. **Remodeling Project Manager:** You don't have to worry about the contractor ripping down the wrong wall, I manage your contractors for you. Call 180° DESIGN, Kathyjean Boise (415) 285-3014.

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**LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCED (20 years), RELIABLE HOUSE CLEANER?** Stop your search! One person cleans your home, not teams. I have great clients and references. Are you tired of teams of different people doing low quality work, if they show up at all? I run a professional high-quality service. Call Ta-Da Housecleaning, KJ, at (415) 285-3014.

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**HOUSECLEANING.** Professional, 12 years experience. Reliable & local. Refs available. Grant @ 643-6900

**JOURNEYMAN ROOFER AVAILABLE!** (For minor work.) Uses new "Roofing Rubber" for all leaks. Specialist in the "Hard Leaks." License test passed in 1981. Roofing since 1965. Many refs. B.Sc. degree. Roofing reports. (415) 978-9375.



Happy Birthday . . .

**HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY:** Beverly Axelrod, Sally Burns, Luther Burbank, Cesar Chavez, Pat Cleaver, Nat "King" Cole, Ornette Coleman, Carol Cuenod, Vincent Caboara, Congress passes Act prohibiting importing slaves (1827), Nanette Dorr, Wyatt Earp, Veva Edelson, Albert Einstein, Dave Fujimoto, Betty Garvey, Bruce Golec, Dorothy Goff, Emma Goldman, Ernesto Hernandez, Lol Halsey, Rebecca & Jeff Hostetler, Casey Jones, Rosie Koopman-Rowe, Della Lopipero, Matt Meblin, Katherine McNeil, Tom Murray, Miriam Makeba, Ovid (43 B.C.), Steve Passin, St. Patrick's Day, Purim, Carl Reiner, Maribel Rodriguez, Sally Seymour, First Space walk (1965, USSR), Steve Voris, LaVette Virden, Mary Wrigley, Jane Wenham tried as witch for talking to her cat and flying (1712)

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Robert's Corned Beef

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St. Patrick's Day

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